



General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 5507

February Session, 2006

LCO No. **2073**

* HB05507HS_APP031706 *

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY AND REIMBURSEMENT UNDER
THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and operate
4 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
5 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
6 who is working, attending high school or who receives cash assistance
7 under the temporary family assistance program from the Department
8 of Social Services and is participating in an approved education,
9 training, or other job preparation activity. Services available under the
10 child care program shall include the provision of child care subsidies
11 for children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of
12 nineteen with special needs. The department shall open and maintain
13 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer
14 such program within the existing budgetary resources available.

15 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
 16 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
 17 income up to [fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except
 18 the commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to] (1) sixty
 19 per cent of the state-wide median income for the fiscal year ending
 20 June 30, 2007, (2) seventy per cent of the state-wide median income for
 21 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and (3) seventy-five per cent of the
 22 state-wide median income [, (2) upon] for the fiscal year ending June
 23 30, 2009, and each fiscal year thereafter. Upon the request of the
 24 Commissioner of Children and Families, the Commissioner of Social
 25 Services may waive the income standards for adoptive families so that
 26 children adopted on or after October 1, 1999, from the Department of
 27 Children and Families are eligible for the child care subsidy program.
 28 [, and (3) on and after March 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility
 29 level to up to fifty-five per cent of the state-wide median income for
 30 applicants and recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility
 31 for temporary family assistance.] The commissioner may adopt
 32 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to establish income criteria
 33 and durational requirements for such waiver of income standards.

34 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program
 35 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and
 36 eligibility system with preference given to serving recipients of
 37 temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in
 38 employment activities under the department's "Jobs First" program,
 39 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued
 40 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child
 41 care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working families,
 42 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department
 43 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income
 44 standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, and
 45 working families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and
 46 safety standards for child care providers not required to be licensed;
 47 (3) a reimbursement system for child care services [which account] that
 48 (A) accounts for differences in the age of the child, number of children

49 in the family, the geographic region and type of care provided by
 50 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services
 51 provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion
 52 of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child
 53 care directors and administrators, and program accreditation, and (B)
 54 is commensurate with the applicable rates set forth in the most recent
 55 biennial local market rate survey; (4) supplemental payment for special
 56 needs of the child and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an annual
 57 rate review process which assures that reimbursement rates are
 58 maintained at levels which permit equal access to a variety of child
 59 care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for participating
 60 families; (7) an administrative appeals process; (8) an administrative
 61 hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to
 62 impose sanctions and recover overpayments; and (9) a waiting list for
 63 the child care subsidy program that reflects the priority and eligibility
 64 system set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed
 65 periodically, with the inclusion of this information in the annual report
 66 required to be issued annually by the Department of Social Services to
 67 the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with
 68 subdivision (10) of section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be
 69 limited to, family income, age of child, region of state and length of
 70 time on such waiting list.

71 (d) On or after January 1, 1998, a provider under the child care
 72 subsidy program that qualifies for eligibility and subsequently receives
 73 payment for child care services for recipients under this section shall
 74 be reimbursed for such services until informed by the Department of
 75 Social Services of the parent's ineligibility.

76 (e) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt
 77 from licensing shall provide the Department of Social Services with the
 78 following information in order to maintain eligibility for
 79 reimbursement: (1) The name, address, appropriate identification,
 80 Social Security number and telephone number of the provider and all
 81 adults who work for or reside at the location where care is provided;

